



**The American Legion  
Department of Maryland  
Damascus Post 171  
PO Box 171  
Damascus, Maryland 20872**

**Anita Trotter  
Commander**

**2024 – 2025**

**Mandy Buckley  
Adjutant**

**MEMBER MEETING MINUTES  
January 13, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Executive Committee (EC)	Present	Absent
Commander: Anita Trotter	X	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Paula Gill	X	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Kevin O'Neill	X	
Adjutant: Mandy Buckley	X	
Finance Officer: Ray Lewandowski	X	
Judge Advocate: Fred Mitchell (PPC)		X
Sergeant at Arms: Scott Dallas	X	
Elected Member: Steve Monteiro (PPC)	X	
Elected Member: Cary Henry	X	
Elected Member: Bill Raab (PPC)		X
Elected Member: Mike Wright	X	
<b>Additional Attendees</b>		
12 members		

The Commander began the meeting at 1930 hours. The meeting took place at Post 171. The minutes of the Executive Committee were presented and available. The Chaplain offered a prayer.

**FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

- We're running a loss for the second month with a net loss of \$7,179 for December.
- Expenses in the past month include:
  - Oil at \$2,186;
  - Balance of costs for the lift, instead of the ramp, for a disabled veteran at \$1,169 (for more information see December 9 minutes, Unfinished Business/Lift for a veteran);
  - Four months of the Unit's share of bingo at \$2,316; and
  - Recognizing veterans 90+ years old and condolences at \$702.
- Bingo netted \$2,097.
- We changed our waste management company. Pick up is on Thursdays.

**MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT**

- We have 271 members, which is 90.9% of our goal. This makes us 1st in the district and 13th in the state.

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT**

- The anniversary event will be held in the fall.
- The committee will meet this month or next month.

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT**

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- The membership dinner will be held January 25.
    - Kevin has 29 responses so far.
    - RSVP by Friday, January 17.
    - Set up will start at 10 am on January 25 and all help is welcome and appreciated!
    - Cocktail hour starts at 5 pm, the dinner starts at 6 pm, and the awards will start at 7 pm.
    - It will be \$10 per person, cash or check at the door.

### **JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT (via Adjutant)**

- Fred will be starting work on the Post Standing Procedures soon and will reach out to members for input.

### **SERGEANT AT ARMS' REPORT**

- Scott shared some options for color guard uniform updates. The cost is projected to be under \$700.

### **BASEBALL'S REPORT**

- There is a meeting with other Post's Baseball Committees to set the schedule tonight.
- We have coaches locked in for the next season and are waiting to see player interest.
- There was an attempt to start a third team, but there wasn't enough interest.

### **ORATORICAL REPORT**

- The contest is set for Saturday, February 8, at 10 am.
- If you'd like to help on the day of, please sign up.
- Everyone is welcome and encouraged to be an audience member and support the participants.

### **SCHOLARSHIP REPORT**

- A meeting of the committee will follow this meeting.

### **SAFETY REPORT**

- A list of priorities was reviewed and will be compared with available funds.
- Norovirus is going around, which can cause dehydration quickly. Take preventative steps by keeping your hands clean with soap and water or hand sanitizer! Please also stay home if you're sick.

### **BUILDING AND GROUND'S REPORT**

- Thanks to those who came to the Post while Home Depot was here. The volunteers did a great job and loved meeting us!
- The nonprofit that does lighting was here last week and we'll get LED lighting and new fixtures if we accept their plan.
  - Time/Date for the installation is TBD and the projected cost is about \$3,000.
  - A grant from Potomac-Edison will cover 90% of the cost of the project.
- AB Luck will reseal the grind pump to solve the odor issue.
- We'll look into ways to make the back door more inviting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- State grant
  - A member's sister is a landscape architect. She is looking into the laws of what we can and can't do with the land.
  - Thanks to Cary for the drone photos!
- The Market Street Bank continues to be available to play for us. They are also tentatively planning an event open to the community in late February.
- First Responder Event
  - Moved from April 13 to April 27.

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- Steve is looking for volunteers.
  - Entertainment, especially for the kids, is a focus right now.
  - Members are encouraged to attend.
  - A VA representative will be visiting the Post on March 10 at 6 pm.
    - This event will be open to the public.
    - The membership meeting will follow.
  - Lorien
    - The home is having a hard time getting all the veterans ready and gathered for our early visits.
    - We are going to pause January's visit and are proposing to start a new buddy-style system.
      - The buddy system will allow for more 1-on-1 interactions and may lead to stronger bonds than the group system we currently have.
      - The new system will allow more flexibility, as Post members can pick dates and times that work for them and their schedules.
      - Buddies will be committing to one hour per month.
    - The new system needs to be cleared by the board of directors before we can implement it.
    - In the meantime, we'll plan to do a group visit as usual on March 12 at 10:30 am.
  - JROTC
    - The JROTC programs in the area seem to all have sponsors already.
    - Damascus doesn't have a program, but we might be able to ask if they want one.
    - Another way to possibly help, even if we don't sponsor a program, is to be available for their annual military inspections.
    - We will still need someone interested in becoming the committee lead to commit to anything.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS, GOOD OF THE POST**

- Call for volunteers and thanks
  - Mali has volunteered to take new photos of our rental spaces. We'll also work on getting a few photos of the spaces decorated for different events.
  - Carpentry "party"
    - With all the upgrades that have been completed upstairs, the pillars still need some work.
    - On Saturday, February 1 at 9 am, we'll make those pillars look as good as the rest of the space.
    - Join us if you'd like to cut materials, paint, or otherwise help!
- Upcoming activities:
  - Post 171 at the Damascus Museum – open Wednesdays and Saturdays through January
  - Member dinner – Saturday, January 25, 2025
  - First responder event – Sunday, April 27, 2025
  - Department gala – Saturday, April 19, 2025

The Chaplain offered a prayer.

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 2039 hours.

Submitted by:  
Mandy Buckley  
Post 171 Adjutant